REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action

dated January 12, 2005. Claims 1 to 11 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 5 and 9,

are independent and Claims 10 and 11 have been newly added. Reconsideration and

further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No.

5,615,318 (Matsuura). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully

requested.

The present invention relates to a coordinate input apparatus that detects

three-dimensional absolute position coordinates of an indicating tool. The present

invention utilizes a stored set of coordinate values that define a three-dimensional space

area, detects a three-dimensional absolute coordinate value of the indicating tool in a three-

dimensional space area, and determines whether the three-dimensional absolute coordinate

value of the indicating tool belongs to the stored three-dimensional space area. If so, the

present invention converts the three-dimensional coordinates of the indicating tool into

coordinates for a display. In this way, an arbitrary three-dimensional space can be

established for the detection of three-dimensional absolute coordinate values.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 1 recites a

coordinate input apparatus which detects three-dimensional position coordinates of an

indicating tool used in combination with a display for displaying a window based on

two-dimensional coordinates. The apparatus comprises storage means, coordinate

detection means, determination means, and conversion means. The storage means stores a

- 7 -

set of coordinate values of a plurality of points for defining a three-dimensional space area.

The coordinate detection means detects a three-dimensional absolute coordinate value of

the indicating tool in a three-dimensional space area. The determination means determines

whether the three-dimensional absolute coordinate value belongs to the three-dimensional

space area defined by the set of coordinate values stored in the storage means. The

conversion means converts, responsive to a determination of the determination means that

the three-dimensional absolute coordinate value belongs to the three-dimensional space

area, a position of the three-dimensional absolute coordinate value in the three-dimensional

space area into a display coordinate value of the display.

Independent Claims 5 and 9 are method and computer-readable medium

claims, respectively, that correspond generally to the apparatus of independent Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of independent

Claim 1, 5 and 9, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of

detecting a three-dimensional absolute coordinate value of an indicating tool in a three-

dimensional space area.

Matsuura relates to a method and apparatus of visualizing assembled sewing

patterns. Matsuura is seen to teach an input means 1100 for inputting three-dimensional

coordinate values of circumference of each horizontal cross section of a dress (column 6,

lines 6-8; Fig. 1). Calculation means 1200 of Matsuura calculates, based on the output of

the input means 1100, the three-dimensional coordinate value that represents the shape

formed by assembling sewing patterns (column 6, lines 14-26; Fig. 1). Image processing

means 1300 then generates, from the output of calculation means 1200, a two-dimensional

- 8 -

projection image associated with the shape formed by assembling sewing patterns (column 6, lines 27-31; Fig. 1). The two-dimensional projection image is displayed on display means 1400 (column 6, lines 32-34; Fig. 1).

The Office Action contends that Matsuura teaches detecting three-dimensional position coordinates of an indicating tool. The cited passage the Office Action relies on is seen to teach a determination of whether or not the input point from a mouse of a coordinate input unit 80 is within a sewing pattern (see column 14, lines 16-20). As such, Matsuura is seen to teach that the detection of the position of the mouse is relative to a displayed sewing pattern. On the other hand, in the present invention, detection is relative to a three-dimensional absolute coordinate value. Matsuura is not seen to detect three-dimensional absolute coordinate values.
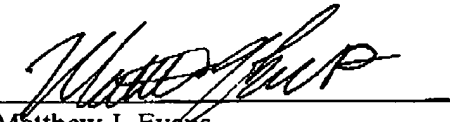
Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, amended independent Claims 1, 5 and 9 are believed to be allowable over the applied reference.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

- 9 -

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,

California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to

our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew J. Evans
Registration No. 56,530

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 84551v1

- 10 -